

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently Amended) A damper for an air flow duct comprising:
ducting;
a damper element in the ducting and movable between a first, closed position and a second, open position;
biasing means biasing the damper element into its closed position; and
retention means for retaining the damper element in an open position;
the retention means comprising:
an actuating member;
a retention member which is fixed relative to the damper element and can be secured by the action of the actuating member to retain the damper element in an open position, which securing can be released by movement of the actuating member to release the damper element so that the latter is moved by the biasing means into its closed position;
a body member which is fixed to an opening in a circumferential wall of the ducting, the body member having a through-hole which passes from an exterior to an interior of the body member; and
a movable member in the through-hole and arranged so that it moves when the actuating member moves, the movable member being arranged such that it protrudes or protrudes further from an opening in the exterior of the body member externally from the ducting when the actuating member moves to release the damper element.

45. (Previously Presented) The damper of claim 44, wherein the actuating member comprises a temperature-sensitive element for releasing the retention member to release the damper element when the temperature-sensitive element reaches a certain temperature.

46. (Previously Presented) The damper of claim 44, wherein the movable member is an axially-movable rod.

47. (Previously Amended) The damper of claim 44, wherein the body member comprises a cylindrical casing mounted by a holder, said opening in the exterior of the body member being in the holder.

48. (Previously Presented) The damper of claim 45, wherein the body member is extended, the temperature-sensitive element being adjacent one end of the body member and the opening in the exterior of the body member being adjacent the other end of the body member.

49. (Previously Amended) The damper of claim 47, wherein the casing is an elongate cylinder and the holder is cylindrical with a bore in one end receiving an end portion of the cylinder, said opening in the exterior of the body member being at the other end.

50. (Previously Presented) The damper of claim 45, wherein the temperature-sensitive element comprises a heat-softenable or meltable material which when hard prevents movement of the movable member and when soft or molten permits movement of the movable member.

51. (Currently Amended) The damper of claim 50, ~~the actuating member comprising a head;~~ the temperature-sensitive element being such that the actuating member ~~[[head]]~~ can move relative to the casing when said certain temperature is reached, the movable member being in contact with or being contactable by the actuating member ~~[[head]]~~ when the actuating member ~~[[head]]~~ moves so that the movement of the actuating member ~~[[head]]~~ causes the movable member to move and protrude or protrude further through said opening.

52. (Currently Amended) The damper of claim 51, wherein the casing has a recess, the movable member is within the casing, and the ~~[[head]]~~ actuating member has a detent engaging in the recess such that when the heat-softenable or meltable material is soft or molten, a force on the ~~[[head]]~~ actuating member in a direction of its movement with respect to the casing would cam the detent out of the recess in a direction generally at right angles to the direction of movement of the ~~[[head]]~~ actuating member and release the ~~[[head]]~~ actuating member, thereby causing the movable member to move, the heat-softenable or meltable material being between the detent and the casing and being such that said force applies a force on the heat-softenable or meltable material generally at right angles to the direction of movement of the ~~[[head]]~~ actuating member.

53. (Currently Amended) The damper of claim 52, wherein the heat-softenable or meltable material is in tension under the action of said force on the ~~[[head]]~~ actuating member.

54. (Currently Amended) The damper of claim 51, wherein the actuating member comprises an end cap which is adjacent or abuts the end of the movable member, the end cap having elongate detents which extend outside the casing and parallel to the movable member.

55. (Previously Amended) The damper of claim 44, the retention means further comprising a fixed backing piece on the other side of the retention member to the actuating member so that the actuating member can press the retention member against the backing piece.

56. (Previously Presented) The damper of claim 44, the retention means further comprising a sprung piece fixed to the ducting and acting as an engaging member such that the actuating member can engage the sprung piece to press the sprung piece against the retention member.

57. (Previously Presented) The damper of claim 44, wherein the damper element is rotatably mounted for movement between its closed position and an open position, and the retention member is generally sector shaped.

58. (Previously Amended) The damper of claim 44, wherein the retention member has a number of recesses or cut-outs for engagement directly or indirectly by the actuating member, to provide a number of different open positions of the damper element, of various degrees of opening, a force being applied directly or indirectly to cam one or more elements of said actuating member such that the respective recess or cut-out will cease to be engaged and the damper element will move into its closed position when the actuating member exerts no pressure on the retention member.

59. (Previously Presented) The damper of claim 44, wherein the protruding end portion of the movable member actuates a microswitch.

60. (Previously Presented) The damper of claim 44, wherein the body member and movable member are in the form of a removable cartridge.

61. – 65. (Canceled).

66. (Currently Amended) A damper for an air flow duct comprising:
ducting;
a rotary damper element carried on an axle in the ducting and movable between a closed position and an open position;
biasing means biasing the damper element into its closed position; and
retention means retaining the damper element in an open position, the retention means comprising:

an actuating member;

a retention member which is fixed relative to the damper element and is secured by the action of the actuating member to retain the damper element in an open position, which securing can be released to release the damper element so that it is moved by the biasing means into its closed position; [[and]]

a support member fixed to the circumferential wall of the ducting and supporting at least part of the retention means, the support member having a base and at least a first limb,

at a substantial angle to the base, which limb is adjacent the inner circumferential wall of the ducting and has a notch on its open end passing over the damper element axle; and

securing means securing the limb to the inner circumferential wall of the ducting at a position between the axle and the base of the support member.

67. (Previously Presented) The damper of claim 66, wherein the support member has a further limb on the opposite side of the retention member to the actuating member, which further limb acts as a backing piece and

wherein the support member has a further limb in the form of a sprung piece on the same side of the retention member as the actuating member, which sprung piece is pressed against the retention member by the actuating member when the damper flap is retained in an open position,

whereby when the damper flap is retained in an open position, the actuating member presses the sprung piece against the retention member which in turn is pressed against the backing piece.

68. (Previously Presented) A damper for an air flow duct comprising:

ducting;

a damper element in the ducting and movable between a first, closed position and a second, open position;

biasing means biasing the damper element into its closed position; and

retention means for retaining the damper element in an open position, the retention means comprising:

an actuating member;

a retention member which is fixed relative to the damper element and which can be secured by the actuating member bearing on the retention member to retain the damper element in an open position, which securing can be released by movement of the actuating member away from the retention member to release the damper element so that the damper element is moved by the biasing means into its closed position;

a body member which is fixed to an opening in a circumferential wall of the ducting, the body member having a through-hole which passes from an exterior to an interior of the body member; and

a movable member in the through-hole and arranged so that it moves when the actuating member moves, the movable member being arranged such that it protrudes or protrudes further from an opening in the exterior of the body member when the actuating member moves to release the damper element.

69. (New) A damper for an air flow duct comprising:

ducting;

a damper element in the ducting and movable between a first, closed position and a second, open position;

at least one spring element attached to the damper element, the at least one spring element biasing the damper element into its closed position; and

a cartridge assembly having:

an actuating member;

a retention member which is fixed relative to the damper element and can be secured by the action of the actuating member to retain the damper element in an open position,

which securing can be released by movement of the actuating member to release the damper element so that the damper element is moved by the at least one spring element into its closed position;

a body member which is fixed to an opening in a circumferential wall of the ducting, the body member having a through-hole which passes from an exterior to an interior of the body member; and

a movable member in the through-hole and arranged so that it moves when the actuating member moves, the movable member being arranged such that it protrudes or protrudes further from an opening in the exterior of the body member externally from the ducting when the actuating member moves to release the damper element.

70. (New) The damper of claim 69, wherein the actuating member comprises a temperature-sensitive element for releasing the retention member to release the damper element when the temperature-sensitive element reaches a certain temperature.

71. (New) The damper of claim 69, wherein the protruding end portion of the movable member actuates a microswitch.

72. (New) A damper for an air flow duct comprising:
ducting;

a damper element carried on an axle in the ducting and movable between a closed position and an open position;

at least one spring element, the at least one spring element biasing the damper element into its closed position; and

a cartridge assembly comprising:

an actuating member;

a retention member which is fixed relative to the damper element and is secured by the action of the actuating member to retain the damper element in an open position, which securing can be released to release the damper element so that it is moved by the at least one spring element into its closed position;

a support member fixed to the circumferential wall of the ducting and supporting at least part of the cartridge assembly, the support member having a base and at least a first limb, at a substantial angle to the base, which limb is adjacent the inner circumferential wall of the ducting and has a notch on its open end passing over the damper element axle; and

a rivet securing the limb to the inner circumferential wall of the ducting at a position between the axle and the base of the support member.

73. (New) The damper of claim 72, wherein

the support member has a further limb on the opposite side of the retention member to the actuating member, which further limb acts as a backing piece, and

the support member has a further limb in the form of a sprung piece on the same side of the retention member as the actuating member, which sprung piece is pressed against the retention member by the actuating member when the damper flap is retained in an open position,

whereby when the damper flap is retained in an open position, the actuating member presses the sprung piece against the retention member which in turn is pressed against the backing piece.